

Grammar: Mood and Voice

Mr. Neff

Parkland High School

Mood

- Modern English has three *moods*, or ways in which a verb can express action: indicative, imperative, and subjunctive.

Indicative Mood

- Indicative Mood, the most common, is used to make factual statements.
 - Gail drives safely.
- And to ask questions
 - Does Gail drive safely?

Imperative Mood

- Imperative mood is used to give orders or directions
 - Drive safely.

Subjunctive Mood

- Subjunctive mood, though it has limited use in modern English, has two general uses:
 - Used in clauses beginning with *if* or *that* to express an idea contrary to fact
 - Alex wished *that* he were a better driver.
 - *If* she were driving to the beach now, she'd be happy.

Subjunctive Mood (cont'd)

- Subjunctive Mood is also used in clauses beginning with *that* to express a request, demand, or proposal.
 - We ask *that* everyone be silent during the show. (request)
 - The driving instructor insists *that* every student drive carefully. (demand)
 - I move *that* the results of the survey be published. (proposal)

Practice with Mood

(Ex. 31, p.551)

Identify the mood of the underlined verb as indicative, imperative, or subjunctive.

1. The modern automobile is fueled by gasoline.
2. People have also developed cars that are powered by natural gas and electricity.
3. If the world were to run out of gasoline, these alternative vehicles could become very popular.
4. Many people insist that a vehicle do as little harm to the environment as possible.
5. Think of new ways to power the automobile.

Voice

- Voice is the form of a verb that indicates whether the subject is performing the action. In English, there are two voices: active and passive. Only action verbs can indicate voice; linking verbs cannot.
- A verb is active when the subject *performs* the action and passive when the subject *receives* the action.

Active Voice

- A verb is *active* if the subject performs the action.
 - Carver *developed* seventy-five products from pecans.
 - Carver *worked* with conviction.

Passive Voice

- A verb is *passive* if the action is performed upon the subject.
 - Seventy-five products *were developed* by Carver from pecans.
 - The work *was done* with conviction.

Active and Passive Voice:

Exercise 39, p. 555

Locate the subject and then underline each verb and identify as active or passive.

1. In addition to his skills as a scientist, George Washington Carver enjoyed music.
2. While working in Winterset, Iowa, Carver was given piano lessons by Mrs. Millholland, a gifted musician.
3. His skills as a musician helped him later in life.
4. In his early days at Tuskegee, Carver played a series of recitals to raise money for the school's agriculture program.
5. Enough money was raised from these concerts

Active and Passive Voice:

Exercise 39, p. 555 (cont'd)

6. Carver also enjoyed the visual arts.
7. While at Simpson College, he was coached in painting by Etta Budd.
8. Carver's creativity was nurtured by Budd.
9. Fueled by her encouragement, Carver painted numerous pictures while at Simpson College.
10. Some of Carver's paintings were exhibited by art experts at an exposition in 1893.